

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSAE-00 L-01 DODE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-04 /051 W

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R 011525Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6675

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: REPORTED WITHDRAWAL OF 5,000 TURKISH TROOPS FROM CYPRUS

1. ON NOVEMBER 1 POLITICAL COUNSELOR ASKED FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ACTING DIRECTOR OF GREEK-CYPRUS AFFAIRS AYDIN ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF WITHDRAWAL OCTOBER 28 OF 5,000 TURKISH OFFICERS AND MEN FROM CYPRUS. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED INFORMATION, THE MEN INVOLVED WERE ALL FROM RESERVE FORCES WHOSE TERM IN SERVICE HAD PASSED, BUT WHO HAD BEEN KEPT ON DUTY BECAUSE OF THEIR ASSIGNMENT TO CYPRUS. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE BEING RETURNED FROM THE ISLAND AND DISCHARGED ON OCTOBER 28 AND THAT THEY WOULD BE REPLACED "JUST LIKE ASSIGNMENTS MADE TO OTHER UNITS IN TURKEY", BUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED THAT THIS LATTER ACTION WOULD TAKE PLACE "AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME".

2. AYDIN, AS DID ANOTHER SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DID NOT SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS, BUT THEY BOTH VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS WITHDRAWAL LEFT
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"A SLIGHT OPENING" AS TO WHEN THE REPLACEMENTS WOULD BE SENT

TO THE ISLAND. THEY THOUGHT THAT THE WITHDRAWAL WAS CHIEFLY FOR INTERNAL TURKISH PURPOSES TO SATISFY THE FAMILIES OF THE MEN INVOLVED JUST BEFORE A MAJOR TURKISH HOLIDAY. IF ANYTHING SHOULD MATERIALIZE FROM THE "SLIGHT OPENING", IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A "MAJOR POLITICAL DECISION" NOT TO REPLACE ALL OR PART OF THE 5,000 MEN WITHDRAWN FROM CYPRUS.

3. COMMENT: WE AND DATT HAVE CAREFULLY CHECKED THE FACTS INVOLVED IN THIS WITHDRAWAL AND AGREE WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT (A) THIS SEEMS TO BE A ROUTINE WITHDRAWAL, AND (B) THERE IS A VERY "SLIGHT OPENING" FOR NOT REPLACING SOME OR ALL OF THE 5,000.
MACO
MBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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